

VZCZCXRO8818
OO RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM
DE RUEHML #4919 3411020
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 071020Z DEC 06
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4192
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHMMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
RHMMUNS/COMSOPCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
RUCOMFJ/CG III MEF IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MANILA 004919

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP, EAP/RSP, AND EAP/MTS
STATE PASS TO USAID
BANGKOK PASS TO TDOLAN
USPACOM ALSO FOR FPA HUSO AND J5
SECDEF/OSD/ISA/AP (TOOLAN/BAILEY)
JOINT STAFF/J5 (WILKES/ROBINSON/CLEMONS)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID EAGR CASC SOCI RP

SUBJECT: NEXT STEPS TO ASSISTING TYPHOON REMING VICTIMS

REF: MANILA 4916

¶11. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE -- SEE PARA 5.

¶12. (U) A December 6 on-the-ground assessment by a joint USAID-JUSMAG team provided a snapshot of the area in southern Luzon recovering from Typhoon Reming, which struck the Philippines November 30-December 1. The disaster affected more than a million Filipinos, and left over 500 people dead, at least another 600 missing, and approximately 40,000 homes totally destroyed. A survey of Legaspi City and the towns of Santo Domingo and Cagsawa indicated widespread devastation. Water, power, and sewage systems are completely disrupted, and there is a pressing need for emergency shelter and medical assistance. President Arroyo declared a State of Calamity for the area on December 4.

¶13. (U) According to the Task Force Mayon Commander, Colonel Roberto Morales, what is most needed is short-term assistance in the form of water purification systems, emergency generators, medical teams, and engineering units to help restore electrical power. Morales fears that without this help, contaminated water supplies could lead to the outbreak of cholera, dysentery, and other water-borne diseases.

¶14. (U) U.S. military assistance in responding to the disasters in Quezon and Aurora provinces in 2004 and the Leyte mudslides in 2006 helped the Philippine government cope with these crises, and built up a tremendous reservoir of good will among the Philippine population. On December 7, a U.S. Marine and JUSMAG contingent joined the Ambassador in off-loading a chartered USAID aircraft bringing relief supplies destined for distribution by the Philippine National Red Cross to the stricken population of the Bicol Region. U.S. military help now would help underscore the benefits to the Philippines of the Visiting Forces Agreement.

¶15. (U) ACTION REQUEST: Embassy Manila requests that the Department of State send the required message to the U.S. Department of Defense to obtain assistance in providing short-term water purification, emergency power, engineering, and medical assistance to Philippine authorities conducting disaster response efforts in the Bicol region of southern Luzon.

Visit Embassy Manila's Classified website:

<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eap/manila/index.cfm>
KENNEY